Penny-A-Pound Reducing Scale

By Professor I. M. BRITE, Chairman of the Dept. of Useless Inventions.

That old maestro of inventive science, Prof. I. M. Brite, has at last consented to divulge some of the secrets of his outstanding and universally recognized success.

Civilization owes much to men such as Prof. Brite and we are very pleased to bring our readers his timely and informative message. He is at present working zealously on an invention, which he says, "will be the master of them all." Prof. Brite has consented to give us the exclusive story on this newest masterpiece when it is perfected.

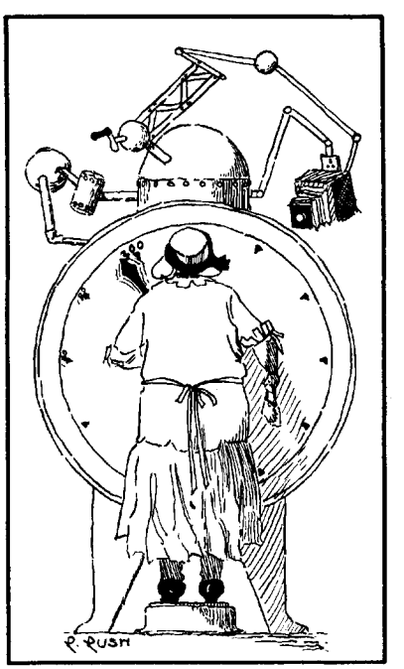
IN OPENING this brief paper on my researches into an ultimate development of the now famous "Penny-A-Pound Reducing Scales" I am tempted to diverge for a moment and say a few words regarding the importance of the department which I head in its relation to the other courses in the curriculum. However, the story of how I came to establish this department in the University is far too long and far too interesting to allow of setting it forth herein. Suffice it to say that if you as students desire to become engineers, in the truest sense of the word, you must become inventors. And in order to become inventors it is absolutely necessary and essential that you take every course offered in the department, and take them in the designated order. All engineering is founded upon the work of this department. Were its work suddenly stopped the entire scientific structure of modern life would collapse into an irreparable wreck.

The field of invention is highly overcrowded today. Men with no idea of the real skill necessary to invent are turning out new devices by the thousands. Patents are being issued on more useless inventions than ever before. Only the other day one of my more enterprising students presented me with a set of statistics that literally astounded me. He had discovered that if all the inventions of 1932 were laid end to end they would form a hysteresis curve of sufficient proportions to prove any existing formulas in the entire field of engineering. But, you will say, what has all this to do with the subject of this treatise. I will therefore hasten on, as time and space are limited. The above has been but a preamble to the story of one of the most amazing inventions of all times.

Returning to my elusive subject I must first note the circumstances that caused me to undertake this gargantuan task. I was standing idly in front of a shop window vainly trying (by means of abstract thought processes) to discover the connection between the form, usage, and nomenclature of that seemingly inane yet popular toy, the Yo-Yo. Purely through accident my glance chanced to fall upon a very large and rotund member of the female sex who was in the act of hoisting her bulk the few inches necessary to take her stand upon the platform of an ordinary penny weighing machine. The scales gave a gasp that was almost human as her weight came down on them, but in their usual pecuniary fashion, refused to tell her weight until she had extricated a penny from her bag and deposited it trustfully in the slot provided. An ominous and hollow clank emanated from the interior of the machine and the hand on the dial, displaying enormous stores of pent-up energy, swung with amazing speed to a mark well over two hundred pounds. The next moment there drifted to my ears several feminine expletives that I may not reproduce here.

It was at this time that the inspiration came to me for my latest and greatest device. Thousands of women the world over were daily enacting scenes similar to the one I had just witnessed. Why could I not bring happiness to these sainted creatures (as well as a possible fortune to myself) by inventing a device that would automatically reduce the weight of a heavy woman at the rate of a pound a day? This, my good friends, is what I have done. As my invention is fully protected by patents I will briefly outline its construction.

In general appearance the "Penny-A-Pound Reducing Scales" does not differ greatly from the ordinary or garden variety of scales. However, the mirror which is usually present has been replaced by a small electric eye or photo-electric camera. When a person first gets on the scale platform, and drops a penny in the proper place, a photograph is snapped and then filed in a small boxlike space in the interior of the mechanism. The weight recorded the first time is the true avoirdupois. Imagine now that a number of women have used the scales during their (the scales) first day of operation. A like number of photographs have been taken and filed and the true weight recorded thereon. The next day, or at any time in the



THE MASTERPIECE IN OPERATION

(Continued on Page 17)

AGAIN - - - winter has come and with it the "Smartest Event of the Year"

The

BRIGADE PROM

Colorful, subdued lights shining on THE girl . . . intensifying the romance in the air, . . . dancing, floating with the music of

ACE BRIGODE

and his 14 Virginians

FEBRUARY 3,

at the

ARMORY

$1.50 per couple

Tickets on sale at HENNICKS, TIMS, ARMORY

Penny-A-Pound

(Continued from Page 14)

future, one of these women returns. She again mounts the platform and pays the price. The electric eye goes into action and its highly sensitized plates recognize the picture as one that is already contained in the file. It then observes the weight (true weight) recorded thereon, subtracts one pound and allows the hand to point to this corrected weight. A mark is made at the same time on the picture to signify that the first reduction has taken place. This process is repeated with each original picture (excepting in the rare cases where the clients do not return) until a total of fifty pounds has been deducted from each original weight. At this time the picture is destroyed, by a secret process, and if the subject returns again the electric eye treats her as a newcomer and again records her true weight. The psychological principle underlying this part of the machine lies in the fact the client will believe herself to have grown careless and to have relaxed her diet and regained the fifty pounds. Thus the machine makes use of the psychological principles developed by the eminent Thornbush. It is also obvious that if the machine showed reduction of much over fifty pounds the subject might begin to wonder why these reductions did not manifest themselves in the eyes of her mirror and the comments of her friends.

A few interesting sidelights which it became necessary to develop before the machine could be put on the market, follow.

In the first place, you will say, what if thin people patronize the machine? This is taken care of by the photo-electric camera which upon taking a picture of a thin person automatically disengages the reducing mechanism and records only true weight.

Also it became necessary to prevent men from using the scales, as their more natural mechanical instincts might lead them to investigate the machine too closely and to check its reductions with their actual weight. This is provided for by a small disc resembling a phonograph record. When a man is on the platform and the camera starts to work, due to the influence of his penny, the machine, recognizing him to be a man, starts the disc turning and a clear distinct voice, issuing from a small aperture under the dial, tells him, "Sir, we beg your pardon, but this device is for women only. We are returning your penny with the compliments of the management. Good-day."

Thus, you see, by a clear and careful application of the principles of true inventive genius we have solved all of the problems attendant upon inventing and have not only filled a long-felt need of the public (the fat public), but have also filled a long empty space in the family coffers.

Attorney: "Where was the prisoner milking the cow?"
Witness: "A little back of the center, sir."